

Hello.

My name is William.



My name is Matthew.



My name is Zachary.



And my name is Ariel.



We're here to tell you about our Papa.

Our Papa's name is Tom.



He is 58 years old.

58

His birthday is October 17, 1955.



He is super awesome!



Some of his favourite things to do are

watch sports on TV,



play with Hotwheels cars,



and visit with friends and family.



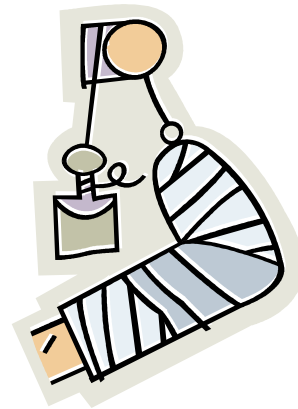
He used to enjoy a lot more activities like golfing and bowling.



We say used to because in the past little while our Papa has changed.



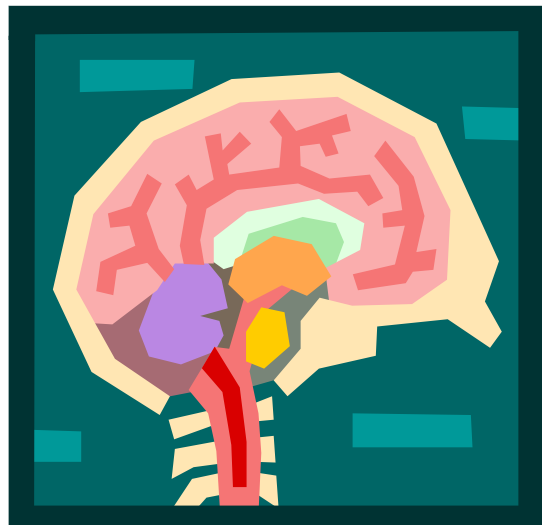
You see, he had a bad accident in August 2011 and things have been different with him since then.



Our mom told us that Papa has something called dementia. He had been getting tested for awhile. He was diagnosed in January 2013.



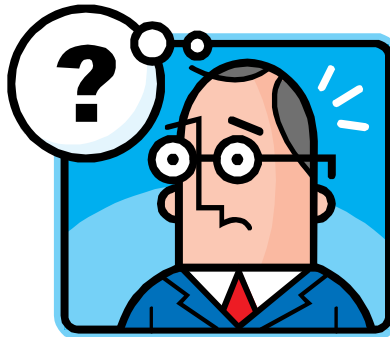
Mom says that dementia is a disease that attacks your brain and slowly shuts it down. The saddest thing is, there is no cure.



The dementia our Papa has is called Frontotemporal dementia.



Mom says that frontotemporal dementia makes the brain lobes at the front of the brain shrink.



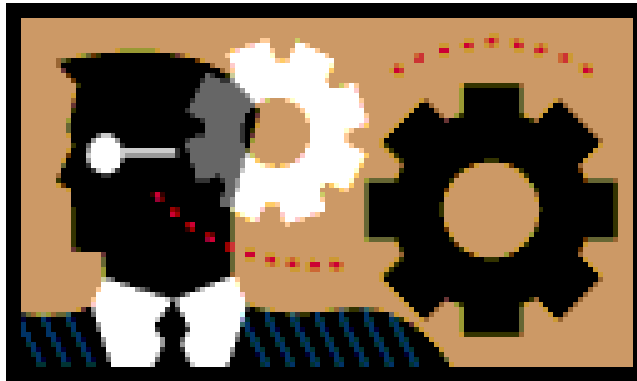
There are many different changes that are happening to our Papa.
He's starting to forget things.

He's forgetting people he used to know, things he has done, and even how to chew food.

We were told that someday Papa may even forget our names.



We don't like what dementia is doing to our Papa. It is stealing his memories and making him forget. It's also changing the way things work in his brain.



He is not allowed to work anymore because it is not safe for him,



he has choked on his food because he's forgetting how to chew,
and he needs to have someone with when he goes for a walk or he could get lost.



Actually, he needs someone with him at all times just in case he falls.

Our grandma takes care of him, he has home care aids that visit him six days a week that give him his medicine and take care of him while our grandma is at work.



Our Aunty Liz and our cousins Joey and Sydney also live with our grandparents and help take care of him.





Our Papa also goes to something we call "Papa Daycare". It is a grown up program that he goes to at Park Manor Personal Care Home and he hangs out with a few people, the staff make him lunch, they do activities and do crafts where he makes really neat stuff.



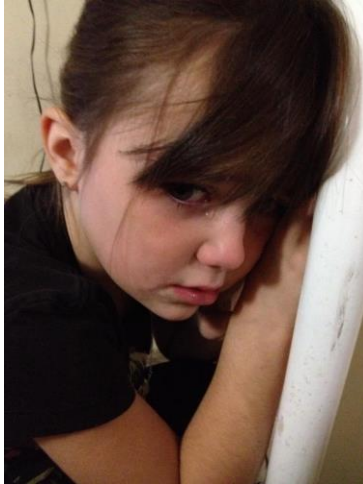
He goes to dementia support group meetings at the Alzheimer's Society of Manitoba one morning a week, and he sees what our grandma says is the top neurologist in Manitoba.

Alzheimer Society
MANITOBA
Dementia Care & Brain Health



A neurologist is a doctor who specializes in identifying and treating diseases of the nervous system.





Our family is very sad about our Papa having dementia. We don't get to visit as much as we used to, but when we are able to visit him, we love it.





Our mom likes to take as many pictures of us with our Papa as she can.



She is hoping to one day make a special video for our Papa so it helps him remember who we are.



Things will continue to change for everyone in our family, and as time goes on the dementia will only get worse. We wish there was a cure.



Dementia makes us angry, sad, and makes our hearts feel like their bursting into flames.



It makes us sad that papa is forgetting things, and that his brain is changing.



No matter what happens, or how much he changes, we love our Papa and always will.